

Food Stamps

#### THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

## What is the Food Stamp program?

Indiana's Food Stamp Program is designed to raise the nutritional level of low-income households by supplementing their available food purchasing dollars with food stamp benefits. Information regarding nutrition and budgeting is available to participants to assist in choosing a nutritionally sound diet with limited income. Program participants are entitled to use their food stamp benefits at the retailer of their choice and choose foods based on their own preferences. However, retailers must be federally approved to accept food stamp benefits. Non-food items may not be legally purchased with food stamp benefits.

The Food Stamp Program is administered through each state but benefits are funded solely by federal funds. Federal regulations which govern implementation of the program are developed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services section pursuant to federal legislation. In Indiana, the Family and Social Services Administration is responsible for ensuring that these federal regulations are initially implemented and consistently applied in each county.

The local Office of the Division of Family and Children in each of the ninety-two Indiana counties has the responsibility for processing applications, certifying eligible applicants for participation, and issuing benefits.

## Who is eligible for the Food Stamp program?

In order to qualify for food stamp benefits applicants/participants must meet both non-financial and financial requirements. Non-financial requirements include state residency, citizenship/alien status, work registration and cooperation with the IMPACT Program. The financial criteria are income and asset limits. If an applicant is eligible based on the federally established financial and non-financial requirements, the allotment of food stamp benefits they receive is based on their household size and net monthly income after all allowable deductions are subtracted.

The asset/resource limits are \$2,000 per household except for households containing a member age 60 or older; then the limit is \$3,000. Assets include bank accounts, cash, real estate, personal property, vehicles, etc. The household's home and surrounding lot, household good and personal belongings and life insurance policies are not counted as assets in the Food Stamp Program. All vehicles used for transportation are exempt beginning 3/1/02.

All households (except those with elderly or disabled members) must pass a gross income test (130 percent of poverty) to qualify for benefits. The gross income is per household size and based on the gross monthly income received by all household members.

Households with elderly or disabled members, as well as households which pass the gross income test, must also pass a net test to qualify. The net income is determined by subtracting certain allowable deductions from the gross income.

If the household's income falls below the following amounts and meets all other criteria, the allotment of food stamp benefits received is based on the household size and net monthly income. The maximum amount of stamps received and net income levels are shown in the following table.

## FEDERAL FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

Effective October 1, 2002

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MAXIMUM GROSS MONTHLY INCOME 130% OF PROVERTY LEVEL	MAXIMUM NET MONTHLY INCOME 100% OF PROVERTY LEVEL	MAXIMUM ALLOTMENT *(BASED ON ZERO INCOME)
1	\$960	\$739	\$139
2	\$1,294	\$995	\$256
3	\$1,628	\$1,252	\$366
4	\$1,961	\$1,509	\$465
5	\$2,295	\$1,765	\$553
6	\$2,629	\$2,022	\$663
7	\$2,962	\$2,279	\$733
8	\$3,296	\$2,535	\$838
9	\$3,630	\$2,792	\$943
10	\$3,964	\$3,049	\$1,048
Each Additional Member	\$334	\$257	\$105

EXCESS SHELTER DEDUCTION \$354 STANDARD DEDUCTION \$134

THE STANDARD DEDUCTION HAS CHANGED EFFECTIVE 10/01/02:

\$134 for household members of 4 or less

\$147 for 5

\$168 for 6 or more members

\*THE ALLOTMENT AMOUNT VARIES WITH THE AMOUNT OF NET INCOME IN THE HOUSEHOLD.

#### **How Are Food Stamps Used?**

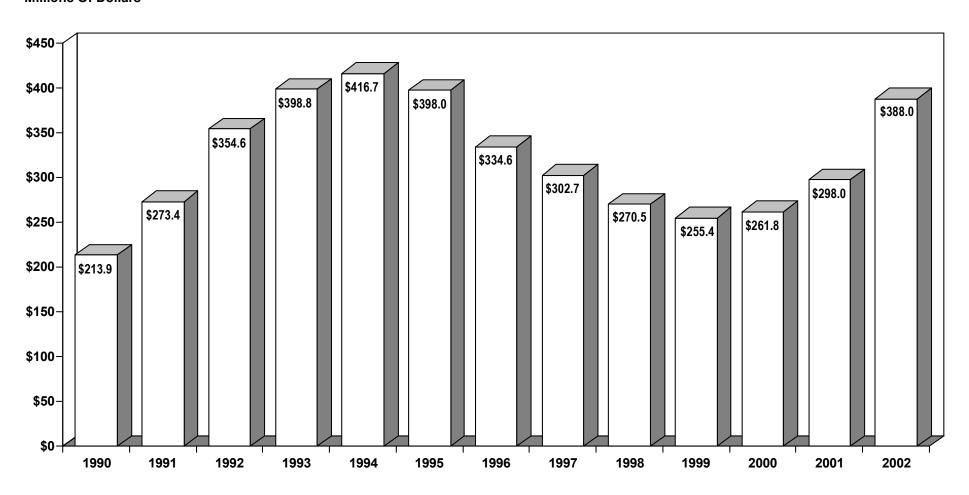
Food stamp benefits are used like cash to buy eligible items at any store, supermarket or co-op approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Food stamps can only be used for food and for plants and seed to grow food to eat. Sales tax cannot be charged on items bought with food stamps.

Indiana uses an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) system for issuance of Food Stamps. All counties have implemented EBT as of 3/1/02. EBT is the electronic distribution of food stamp benefits. Benefits are accessed with a plastic Hoosier Works card. The card replaces paper food stamp coupons. The Hoosier Works EBT card is similar to commercial debit and ATM cards; it has a unique sixteen-digit account number, a magnetic stripe on the back and only works with a four digit Personal Identification Number (PIN) selected by the participant. All retailers who previously accepted food stamps were given the opportunity to participate in the EBT program.

## **Indiana Family & Social Services Administration**

## **Total Value Of Food Stamps Issued For State Fiscal Years 1990-2002**

### **Millions Of Dollars**



**State Fiscal Years** 

Note: The Food Stamp Program is 100% Federally Funded.

# INDIANA FAMILY AND SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION AVERAGE MONTHLY PERSONS AND TOTAL DOLLARS ISSUED BY COUNTY FOR THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM FOR THE STATE FISCAL YEAR 2002

	AVERAGE PERSONS	TOTAL DOLLARS
COUNTY	SFY2002	SFY2002
	02002	5112002
Adams	1,317	\$1,233,534
Allen	21,548	\$21,798,195
Bartholomew	3,809	\$3,638,903
Benton	308	\$260,406
Blackford	1,154	\$1,046,167
Boone	1,274	\$1,242,059
Brown	607	\$555,662
Carroll	686	\$629,710
Cass	2,469	\$2,298,308
Clark	5,160	\$4,660,144
Clay	1,788	\$1,662,409
Clinton	1,842	\$1,716,063
Crawford	1,021	\$865,854
Daviess	2,068	\$1,846,428
Dearborn	1,750	\$1,599,637
Decatur	1,342	\$1,229,647
DeKalb	1,421	\$1,353,157
Delaware	9,475	\$9,099,528
Dubois	903	\$727,402
Elkhart	11,737	\$11,742,254
Fayette	2,182	\$2,043,771
Floyd	4,605	\$4,447,691
Fountain	941	\$806,526
Franklin	994	\$928,676
Fulton	1,152	\$1,027,714
Gibson	1,557	\$1,442,958
Grant	6,666	\$6,067,024
Greene	1,841	\$1,612,202
Hamilton	1,940	\$1,890,100
Hancock	1,412	\$1,304,671
Harrison	1,782	\$1,621,883
Hendricks	1,611	\$1,465,279
Henry	3,525	\$3,392,424
Howard	6,319	\$6,201,808
Huntington	1,775	\$1,569,715
Jackson	1,757	\$1,638,064
Jasper	1,172	\$1,125,228
Jay	1,054	\$973,369
Jefferson	1,946	\$1,816,033
Jennings	1,514	\$1,358,211
Johnson	3,696	\$3,669,534
Knox	3,839	\$3,618,950
Kosciusko	2,289	\$2,162,570
LaGrange	669	\$618,146
Lake	55,996	\$57,405,838
LaPorte	7,276	\$7,134,610
Lawrence	2,451	\$2,212,443

# INDIANA FAMILY AND SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION AVERAGE MONTHLY PERSONS AND TOTAL DOLLARS ISSUED BY COUNTY FOR THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM FOR THE STATE FISCAL YEAR 2002

	AVERAGE PERSONS	TOTAL DOLLARS
COUNTY	SFY2002	SFY2002
Madison	9,885	\$9,444,126
Marion	77,058	\$80,468,968
Marshall	1,877	\$1,799,166
Martin	694	\$612,754
Miami	2,491	\$2,416,575
Monroe	5,003	\$4,690,756
Montgomery	2,339	\$2,265,678
Morgan	3,892	\$3,724,252
Newton	897	\$866,067
Noble	1,598	\$1,576,923
Ohio	148	\$131,975
Orange	1,802	\$1,495,037
Owen	1,598	\$1,496,010
Parke	971	\$898,180
Perry	891	\$784,894
Pike	837	\$739,279
Porter	4,977	\$4,956,946
Posey	1,399	\$1,306,655
Pulaski	825	\$745,668
Putnam	1,081	\$1,042,181
Randolph	1,946	\$1,840,723
Ripley	1,036	\$868,379
Rush	860	\$759,911
St. Joseph	19,793	\$20,264,862
Scott	2,416	\$2,294,835
Shelby	1,985	\$1,951,767
Spencer	894	\$773,341
Starke	2,109	\$1,933,034
Steuben	1,220	\$1,300,794
Sullivan	1,829	\$1,598,376
Switzerland	439	\$395,247
Tippecanoe	6,651	\$6,671,634
Tipton	675	\$618,453
Union	399	\$351,841
Vanderburgh	14,762	\$13,946,019
Vermillion	902	\$727,116
Vigo	9,513	\$8,663,717
Wabash	1,471	\$1,368,631
Warren	316	\$251,551
Warrick	1,714	\$1,471,812
Washington	1,805	\$1,512,808
Wayne	5,680	\$5,311,432
Wells	850	\$800,944
White	1,419	\$1,294,719
Whitley	856	\$815,964
TOTALS	395,444	\$388,010,905

## Indiana Family & Social Services Administration Percentage Of Population Participating In Food Stamp Program By County June 2002

